

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00055 051228Z

21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /063 W

----- 107964

O R 051201Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7953

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 55

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. WEEKEND SAW MUCH KIDNAPPING AND LOOTING. THIS MORNING, MON., JAN 5, CALLED ON MARONITE PATRIARCH (SEPTOL), SO DROVE DIRECTLY FROM HOUSE VIA AIN RUMMANEH, ASHRAFIYEH, QARANTINA, BORJ HAMMUD, DORO TO BKIRKE. MANY PHALANGE ROADBLOCKS, SOME ARMENIAN (VIGILANTE TYPE) KEEPING ARMED MEN OUT OF ARMENIAN PORTIONS OF CITY. NO REPEAT NO MOSLEM, EVEN IN PORT AREA, THROUGH WHICH I RETURNED. CONSIDERABLE TRAFFIC IN AND OUT OF TOWN, NOTWITHSTANDING RADIO WARNINGS THIS MORNING RE DANGER DRIVING. NEVERTHELESS, BEIRUT IS A JUNGLE OR BEDLAM; NO ONE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC RULES, ARMED LOCAL MEN TRYING DIRECT TRAFFIC; STREETS POTHOLED AND FULL OF WATER DUE GARBAGE BLOCKING SEWERS AND HEAVY RECENT RAINS. NO GARBAGE HAS BEEN COLLECTED FOR WEEKS.

2. AUG OPENED THIS MORNING, AS DID BUC, IC AND ACS. AUB ATTENDANCE BETTER THAN EXPECTED, BUT EVERYONE VERY, VERY NERVOUS. PAN AM RESUMING ONCE WEEKLY FLIGHTS. BANKS
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NOT REPEAT NOT OPEN.

GODLEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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